Eradication of leprosy

†*325. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making continuous efforts for eradication of leprosy from the country;

(b) if so, the number of leprosy cases detected, so far, during the current year in the country, especially in Chhattisgarh;

(c) the reasons for not eliminating leprosy completely from the States where there is much prevalence of leprosy; and

(d) whether Government would, with the help of concerned State Governments, make some special efforts for eradication of leprosy?

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. AMBUMANI RAM DOSS): (A) to (d) The goal set by National Health Policy, 2002, was elimination of leprosy as a public health problem (*i.e.* prevalence rate of less than one case per ten thousand population) at National level by December, 2005. The goal of leprosy elimination at the national level was achieved as targeted in the month of December, 2005. Elimination has been achieved in 26 States/UTs. Now the programme is making efforts for achieving elimination in remaining States/UTs, which are: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, D&N Haveli and Delhi. The reasons for these States/UTs not having achieved elimination are- (i) Launching Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) late in all the districts due to poor health infrastructural facilities and (ii) problem of migration of population in Delhi, Chandigarh and Dadra Nagar Haveli.

Special efforts are being made in all these areas with emphasis on situational analysis, specific measures for case detection and treatment, improved supervision, giving special focus to high endemic districts and blocks and strong IEC efforts to promote self referral and adherence to treatment. These efforts are expected to lead to elimination of Leprosy in these nine States/UTs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

37426 new leprosy cases have been detected so far in the country in 2006-07 as on 30th June, 2006, out of whcih 1700 (4.54%) leprosy cases are from Chhattisgarh State.

The Government of India is committed to implementing the National Leprosy Elimination Compaign throughout the country even after achievement of elimination at the national level. These efforts are expected to lead to eradication of leprosy in the long term.

NRHM in North Eastern Region

*326. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress, so far, made in carrying out of objectives of the National Rural Health Mission in the North Eastern Region, indicating the estimated population for whom health facilities are still beyong reach, State-wise;

(b) the allocation of Central funds for the mission during the current year and during the preceding three years, and the population and the area covered under the mission during each year, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria adopted for allocation of Central funds for the mission and the steps taken to ensure the prevention of leakage, diversion or misappropriation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (A) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched on12th April, 2005, and is beign implemented throughout the country with special focus on 18 States which includes all the NE States (and Sikkim). It aims at providing integrated, comprehensive and effective primary health care to the poor, vulnerable sections of the society.

State Health Missions have been constituted in all North Eastern States and Sikkim. The merger of Health & Family Welfare Departments in all the States have been completed and the State Health and Family Welfare Societies have been merged in all these States except in the State of Sikkim and 376 Rogi Kalyan Samitis have so far been registered. 15,629 ASHAs have been selected so fare in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland.